

LINCOLN

THE MAN OF COMMON SENSE

ADDRESS

OF

HON. IRA G. HERSEY
OF MAINE

BEFORE THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ADDRESS
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HON. IRA G. HERSEY.

LINCOLN, THE MAN OF COMMON SENSE.

Mr. HERSEY. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that hitherto it has been the custom in this House on the occasion of Lincoln's birthday to listen to some Representative from the State of Illinois upon the life and public service of Abraham Lincoln. It has been a very wise and pleasing custom for Members from his adopted State, who were best informed in the interesting details of that early life and manhood, to speak to us. And so, to-day, following my remarks you will hear with great pleasure from an eloquent member of the delegation from Illinois.

I have, however, been favored by your kind consent to speak for a brief time on one phase of the life of this great American from the standpoint of a Congressman from Maine. I can not forget that Lincoln when first elected President had as his associate and Vice President that great statesman, Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, and that in his Cabinet he placed that wise financier, William Pitt Fessenden, of my State, as Secretary of the Treasury; and that in his war Congress he had Hon. Lot M. Morrill, former Governor of Maine, two Washburns from my State, one then a Representative from the State of Illinois and the other from Maine, together with James G. Blaine, who ably supported Lincoln in the successful conduct of the war; and then on the field of battle he had the services of that illustrious military hero, Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, of Maine. Lincoln is not the property of any State. He is the idol of every State. In the words of Stanton, "He belongs to the ages."

The American people are worshipers of heroes as well as destroyers of idols. We demand perfect human examples to lead us in the faithful discharge of our duties as citizens. Any idol that does not meet the test of time we destroy. And so, in these troublesome times, we are too apt to forget true statesmanship in the struggle for partisan place and power and to listen to the voice of demagogues and not to the words of men.

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

In such an hour as this the prayer of the American people ought to be:

God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands,
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office can not buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking;

For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,
 Their large professions and their little deeds,
 Mingle in selfish strife, lo ! Freedom weeps,
 Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps !

Down through the victorious years that have made the history of this Nation have come two men whose names have been written highest in the hall of fame, idols of the people, heroes of the masses, men without reproach, men who have met the test of noble human example and who have become true guides for the statesmen of the present. If this Republic is to survive the coming centuries, we still must follow the wise examples of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.]

Washington, the creator, the founder, and the builder of the Constitution, the Father of his Country; Lincoln, the defender of that Constitution, the preserver of the Union, and the savior of the Republic.

Our past friendly relations with other nations, our successful foreign policies, our high and exalted position in the world are all the result of following the wise counsel laid down in Washington's Farewell Address. His words of wisdom have heretofore kept us from "entangling alliances" with European powers, and, following his great example, we have grown to be the mightiest Nation in history, the envy and admiration of all the world beside. [Applause.]

The life, example, character, and public policies of Abraham Lincoln have hitherto guided us wisely as a Nation in all our domestic questions, in the passage of wholesome laws, in the building up of our great institutions. In these days of national danger and perils to the Republic, when professed friends of the people insist that we shall discard the chart and compass of Lincoln and sail by the light of revolutionary fires, in this hour when there is talk of mutiny on the ship of state, when there are false lights all along the shore, when the voice of the dishonest political demagogue is abroad in the land, it is well for us here in the Halls of Congress to pause for a few moments to get our bearings, examine anew the chart of Lincoln, and solemnly resolve that Abraham Lincoln shall not have died in vain—

that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

My father was a pioneer in the wilderness of northern Maine. I remember as a lad of 6 years of seeing two colored newspaper pictures on the wall of our humble cabin home. One was a picture of Lincoln and Hamlin and the other of a battle field where men in blue were contending with men in gray. I could not understand it. Mother tried to explain to me that there was a war away down South, that Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States, and the men in blue were fighting for Lincoln and the Union and that the men in gray were trying to destroy the Union. I could not understand it. A few days after I saw men of our neighborhood bidding good bye to their families and marching away singing—

We are coming, Father Abraham,
 Three hundred thousand more.

I did not understand it. I recall a day shortly after this when I found mother in tears. She told me that Uncles Bill and Jim had been killed in the war and were buried on the battlefield in the Southland. I could not understand it. Then there came a day when everyone in the neighborhood seemed so happy. Good news had come that the war was over, and that Lincoln, the great President, had saved the Union and given freedom to the colored race. I could not understand it.

Then it seemed such a little while when there came a day when soldiers and the big men of the town met at my father's house and talked of the awful news that Lincoln had been shot. Great, strong men wept like little children, and I could not understand it. Mother told me when I grew up I would understand it all; that I would then know about the war and the good man that had been killed. Through all the years that have so swiftly fled since then I have learned more and more about this wonderful man who had the wisdom of the wisest and the heart of a child; who was so loved by the common people that they left their homes and dear ones and rushed into battle at his command, and whose death they mourned and refused to be comforted.

Since those boyhood days I have studied Lincoln's life and character in all its marvelous details. I have pondered his character from every angle, and I have come to the conclusion that the secret of his wonderful life and character, the secret of his power over the people, was due to his abundance of common sense. The people understood him, trusted him, loved him. He settled every question in the court of common sense. Lord Rosebery, of England, one of the famous statesmen of that nation, said of Lincoln:

Lincoln was one of the greatest figures of the nineteenth century. To me it has always seemed that he was the second founder of that great Republic. His strength rested on two rocks—unflinching principle and illimitable common sense.

I want this morning to call your attention briefly to a few illustrations of his wonderful fountain of common sense and to draw from this fountain a few lessons that we may apply in the discharge of our duties in public and private life and to use his common sense in the settlement of the problems of to-day.

Lincoln's boyhood was marked by a common sense rarely found in childhood. Born in poverty and want he refused to submit to these disadvantages but strove to master almost insurmountable obstacles. He learned to read from the pages of newspapers in the hands of his mother. His only books were the Bible, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," and Weem's "Life of Washington"—three of the greatest books in the world. His whole life was influenced, molded, and directed by these books. The Bible gave him the Sermon on the Mount and the golden rule; Bunyan taught him the true way of life; Washington became his idol as a man and a statesman, whose example he faithfully followed.

While his days were too full of tasks of the shop and the field to permit him to read and study by the light of day, his common sense taught him that when daylight was gone the nights were his. He read these wonderful books stretched upon

the cabin floor by the light of pitch knots. Longfellow must have thought of Lincoln's boyhood when he wrote:

The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
For they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

That same common sense followed him in his struggle as a youth to obtain an education. It taught him the law of labor, so that whatever his hands found to do he did it with his might. Working on the farm, tending the grocery store, carrying the mails, splitting rails, he toiled early and late among the common people to gain the little money needed to buy the necessities of life and add to the stock of books that should fit him for the battle of life.

Common sense is nothing but honest thought and action, and Lincoln had honesty of mind, honesty in his dealing with others, honesty in his language and speech, honesty in his religion and politics, so that his friends and neighbors gave him early in life the title of "Honest Abe." He showed his great common sense in his first political speech when he announced himself a candidate for his State legislature in the following words:

Gentlemen and fellow citizens, I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by my friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank; I am in favor of the internal-improvement system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same.

How strange to-day seems this plain and honest statement to the people in contrast to the bombastic and sensational proclamations of candidates for public office. Lincoln said he had been solicited by his friends to become a candidate. Now it is popular to make your announcement without consulting the wishes or even the desires of your best friends. Lincoln said his politics were short; that he favored a national bank, which was then a great need of his people. He favored State improvements, which at that time consisted mostly of waterway improvements and transportation. He said he was in favor of a high protective tariff. Now many candidates for office proclaim that if elected they will bring great riches and prosperity to their people; they will inaugurate reforms that will make a new heaven and a new earth; that they will so review and revise the present tariffs of the Nation that everything the people produce and sell will be high and everything that they have to buy will be low.

Lincoln showed his great common sense when he said of the tariff:

I do not know much about political economy, but I do know that when we purchase a ton of steel rails from Great Britain for \$100 we get the rails and Great Britain gets the money, and when we produce the rails from our own mines and in our mills we have both the money and the rails. When you buy goods made abroad you have the goods, but some one else has the money. When you buy goods at home we have both the goods and the money.

Lincoln was sent by his people four times to the legislature of his State. It gave him a great opportunity not only to help his people, which he did, not only to learn the ways of legislation, but also a further opportunity at the capitol to read those books for which his mind hungered and which he perused to his great improvement and benefit.

In the State legislature he was noted for his honest work for the people, his industry, his constant attendance upon that body, and for his wisdom embodied in the legislation of that day.

While still a youth the Black Hawk war broke out, a company was formed in his neighborhood, and he was elected its captain. He knew nothing of military life or the tactics of the field, and yet his friends so trusted him and had such confidence in his ability and common sense as to demand that he become their leader.

It is told of him that as they marched away, four abreast, with Lincoln at their head, they passed through an open field and came to a high fence that barred the way to the field beyond and the only way to get through was by means of a narrow gate just wide enough for one person at a time to pass. Lincoln said for the life of him he could not think of the command necessary to throw the line into single file from a column of fours. His common sense stood him in good need. As they approached the gate he shouted "Halt!" and then said, "This company is dismissed for two minutes, when it will form on the other side of the gate." [Laughter.] He was successful in his military maneuvers due to his abundance of common sense.

Lincoln early decided that he would adopt the profession of law. In those old days only college men and rich city youths were expected to become members of the legal fraternity. In Lincoln's neighborhood there seemed to be no opportunity for a young man like him, without rich friends or influence, to enter that profession. His common sense, however, overcame all difficulties. He read all the law books he could find and then would walk to Springfield, the capital, 15 miles away, to get more books and trudged back again to read them between the hours of manual labor. Without a college or law-school education, without a teacher, he passed the examination and was admitted to the bar. He at once brought to that great profession the same fearless honesty, integrity, and common sense that up to that time had marked his boyhood and youth.

Frederick Trevor Hill's valuable book on "Lincoln the Lawyer" gives us a wonderful insight into the life of Lincoln at the bar and shows how successful he was as a pleader, and the great success he achieved by simply applying his well-known common sense to the practice of his profession.

He would never undertake a case unless he was convinced that his case was just, and he would at once abandon a case when he discovered that he was in the wrong. It is related of him on one occasion when he was induced by a client to bring a suit and had presented his case in court the defense showed conclusively that Lincoln's client had lied about the facts. After the client had admitted his falsehood Lincoln arose in his place and left the court room and went to his office across the street. When the judge told the parties to proceed Lincoln did not appear and the judge sent for him. He was found sitting

in his office in deep study. The messenger said to Mr. Lincoln, "The judge wants you." "Oh, does he," said Lincoln. "Well, you go back and tell the judge I can not come. Tell him I have to wash my hands."

His common sense as a lawyer can be further illustrated by his advice to a fellow member of the bar. It seems that a young and wealthy aristocratic member from a fashionable college, who had just come from the office of a great lawyer, in trying his case took up the time of the court and jury in wonderful flights of eloquence, talking about everything except the facts in his case, and, of course, he lost the verdict. He could not understand it, and came to Lincoln and said to him:

You have been very successful in obtaining verdicts. I ought to have had this verdict. Can you tell me what is the matter and how I came to lose it?

Lincoln took him one side and said to him:

Billy, don't shoot too high. Aim low and the common people will understand you. They are the ones you want to reach; at least they are the ones you ought to reach. The educated and refined people will understand you anyway. If you aim too high, your ideas will go over the heads of the masses and only hit those who need no hitting.

His people sent Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, and his work here was characterized by that same common sense that made him the idol of his people. He did not introduce any bills to revolutionize the Government to obtain newspaper notoriety and advertisement. He proposed no radical amendments to the Constitution; he never for the sake of a day's fame advocated the taking from the rich and giving to the poor. As a representative of the common people he never claimed that they should have the right to vote upon the decisions of the highest court of the land; he never spent his time in making speeches exaggerating the imaginary wrongs of labor and denouncing capital and then offering no remedy. He was constant in his attendance and ever alert to the business of legislation. His good sense and fairness made him the warm friend of every Member of the National House.

Then came the irrepressible conflict on the question of the extension of human slavery on American soil. Lincoln early expressed his common-sense view of the matter in words that all could understand. He did not advocate war upon the Southern States for the purpose of destroying slavery. He did not sympathize with John Brown's attempt to liberate the slaves by revolution. He did not believe in human slavery, but recognized the fact that it was then protected by the Constitution of the United States. He was opposed to any further extension of slavery for the reason that he believed the South should keep its solemn agreement not to enter free States, and he believed further that in the admission of Territories the people of that Territory should settle the question whether or not the new State should be free. His debates with Douglas were wonderful specimens of logic and common sense. Douglas was an aristocrat, finely educated, a polished orator of the old school, and when he met Lincoln in joint debate he looked upon it as an easy task to overcome him by oratory and eloquence.

In Lincoln he found his master. When he attempted to ridicule this man of common sense and to prejudice the question with the claim that "equality" as defined by his opponent meant that Lincoln would want a black woman for a wife, thereby appealing to the prejudices of race, Lincoln answered him by saying:

I protest against the counterfeit logic which concludes that because I do not want a black woman for a slave I must necessarily want her for a wife. * * * I shall never marry a negress, but I have no objections to anyone else doing so. If a white man wants to marry a negro woman, let him do so—if the negro woman can stand it.

[Laughter.]

I shall not attempt to review the debates with Douglas. Lincoln's great speeches before the war and his celebrated Cooper Union speech show his wonderful logic and common sense, and no doubt turned the public opinion of the North against the further encroachment of slavery upon the free States.

Blaine, in his "Twenty Years of Congress," said of Lincoln:

He loved the truth for the truth's sake. He would not argue from a false premise, or be deceived himself, or deceive others, by a false conclusion. He did not seek to say merely the thing which was best for that day's debate, but the thing which would stand the test of time, and square himself with eternal justice. * * * His logic was severe and faultless. He did not resort to fallacy.

Lincoln's views of slavery as it then existed in the Nation were further expressed shortly before his first nomination for President, when he said:

When southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists and that it is very difficult to get rid of it in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do as to the existing institution.

A partisan for State rights took offense at one of Lincoln's speeches and applied it personally to himself, and sent Lincoln a challenge to fight a duel. Lincoln's common sense showed him how absurd was the argument of the duel, but he accepted the challenge. By the terms of the duel Lincoln had the choice of weapons and the conditions. He choose broad-swords, with the condition that they should not come nearer each other than 5 feet.

On the day of the duel Lincoln went to the field and, with the aid of his seconds, put up a barrier 5 feet wide, and then took an axe and commenced to cut away the small bushes in the field to the great amusement of those looking on, and when the short, fat, and chubby antagonist appeared with a brace of pistols he claimed Lincoln was taking an unfair advantage of him and that Lincoln's long arms would make a very unequal match, and so the contest of honor ended to the satisfaction of everybody and the discouragement of duels.

On the right to hold slaves Lincoln said:

Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a Nation we began by declaring that "All men are created equal." We

now practically read it, "All men are created equal, except negroes." When the "Know-nothings" get control it will read, "All men are created equal, except negroes and foreigners and Catholics." When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty; to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.

Lincoln was nominated as the candidate of the new Republican Party, and the South threatened, if he should be elected, to go out of the Union. Lincoln responded, "We shall not go out of the Union, and you shan't." And so the issue was formed.

After his election in a public speech he said:

My friends, I rejoice with you in the success which has so far attended the Republican cause. Yet in all our rejoicing let us neither express nor cherish any hard feelings toward any citizen who by his vote differs from us. Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country.

After his election as President he still exhibited in all his words and acts the embodiment of common sense. He faced the greatest domestic crisis in history. He was recognized as the representative of the common people opposed to all classes of special privilege, to all patents and titles of nobility, to all domination of one man over another, to all control of one class of men over another class. He had no vindictiveness, no revenge to satisfy. He had only kindness and sweetness, love for humanity and for those who would destroy the Nation.

The conditions that confronted him were greater, it seems to me, than any human could successfully settle or control. He had only received a minority vote of the country. The Southern States were attempting to secede from the Union. There were traitors and spies everywhere plotting against him. Radicals and reformers were insisting that he should use force to liberate the slaves. In the South was a trained, disciplined, and well-equipped army. Across the water was hostile Europe ready to lend its assistance to the South to destroy the Union. France was encouraging reaction in Mexico. Everywhere there was a divided Nation. He was not deceived, however, when he said:

A house divided against itself can not stand. I believe this Government can not endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South.

He left his home in Springfield, Ill., for Washington to be inaugurated. It became necessary, as he approached Washington, to travel unknown to save himself from personal injury, and when he took the oath of office he was surrounded not only by friends but by enemies and spies. His common sense was shown in his first inaugural message, which is one of the classics of history, when looking into the face of the enemies of the Union he gave utterance to these plain and sensible words:

The power confided in me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imports, but beyond what may be necessary for these objects there will be no invasion, no use of force, among the people anywhere. In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourself the aggressor.

Even aristocratic Washington society attempted to humiliate him. A dinner was given by the fashionables for Lincoln, and when he put his long legs under the table at that dinner a lady sitting across from him, one of the titled "Codfish aristocracy" of the day said to him, "Mr. Lincoln, I would like to ask you a question?" He said, "Madam, proceed. I will answer if I can." She said, "Mr. Lincoln, how long should a man's legs be?" All eyes were focused on him awaiting an answer that they expected would humiliate him. His good common sense protected him when he said, "Madam, it has always seemed to me that a man's legs should be long enough to reach from his body to the ground." He was troubled no more by questions from such a source.

Lincoln was determined that the Union should be preserved, even if saving it slavery survived for a time. His common sense taught him that the Constitution was the one and only thing that held the States together; that a Union of the States was the only salvation of the Nation, and his first message to the people was an appeal to stand by the Union, and not a call to take up arms to abolish slavery. His stand held the border States. Any other position at that time would have brought disaster to the friends of the Union and not have liberated the slaves. His position solidified the North regardless of party and brought to him the enthusiastic support of all who opposed the destruction of the Union.

Lincoln further showed his good common sense by not playing partisan politics during the war. He took that great Democrat, Stanton, who did not agree with him in all his policies, but who believed in the Union, and made him his Secretary of War. Stanton's work in the Cabinet was of great value to the Union cause and greatly assisted Lincoln in the successful conclusion of the war. And yet many times Stanton was very bitter against Lincoln's conduct of the war, although history has shown that Lincoln was always right.

It is told that during the progress of the Civil War, when things looked dark for the Union armies, Stanton and Lincoln held a consultation and Stanton left the conference in anger and disgust. Lincoln had a negro servant as bodyguard that happened to be in the same room with Stanton after he had left Lincoln. Lincoln met the servant shortly afterwards and said to him, "What did Stanton say after he left the room?" The servant said, "Marsa Lincoln, he was pretty mad." "Well, what did he say?" "I do not like to tell you, Marsa Lincoln, but he was surely mad." "I want you to tell me what his last remark was!" "Well, he said something like this, Marsa Lincoln. He said you was a damned old fool." "Well," said the President, looking up with a smile, "I expect Stanton is right. He generally knows what he is talking about."

Lincoln could never be led into a personal quarrel. He could have discharged Stanton for this insult, but his common sense led him to overlook it because of the great ability of the Secretary of War and the wonderful work he was doing in the conduct of the war.

After the firing upon Fort Sumter the withdrawal of many of the Southern States from the Union and the actual commencement of the war on the part of the South, Lincoln was approached by many committees and organizations from the North requesting that he issue a proclamation liberating the slaves. Lincoln refused. His common sense told him the time had not yet come to do that act, and against the advice of friends, radicals, and reformers he pursued the even tenor of his way so that the South should have no excuse for leaving the Union. He issued a proclamation to the soldiers saying there should be no violence or attempt on the part of the administration to destroy property. The South, however, soon withdrew from the Union to prosecute real war upon the North, and it became necessary for Lincoln to call to arms the Union troops to suppress the insurrection. Then came the period of the Civil War.

History looking back over 60 years has pronounced its verdict that all Lincoln did was the embodiment of the greatest wisdom and common sense. I have only time to give you a few illustrations. A delegation of New York millionaires, waited upon him one day requesting that he furnish New York a gunboat for the protection of the harbor. The President said:

Gentlemen, the credit of the Government is at a very low ebb; greenbacks are not worth more than 40 or 50 cents on the dollar; it is impossible for me in the present condition of things to furnish you a gunboat, and in this condition of things, if I were worth half as much as you gentlemen are represented to be, and as badly frightened as you seem to be, I would build a gunboat and give it to the Government.

There could be no answer to this common-sense view of the matter, and the delegation went home and was never heard of afterwards.

A delegation of "military experts" waited upon him and requested that he should attack southern seaports so as to draw away the rebel army from northern seaports. Lincoln said:

You remind me of a New Salem girl who was troubled with singing in her head for which there seemed to be no remedy. But a neighbor promised a cure if they would make a plaster of psalm tunes and apply to her feet and thus draw the singing down.

And that delegation also went away.

The battle of Bull Run early in the war was a great disaster for the Union armies. The commanders of the northern armies, however, waited upon Lincoln and attempted to explain to him how it had been a great victory for the Union troops and not a disaster. After he had heard their long explanation he said: "So it is your notion that we whipped the rebels and then ran away from them." And these officers silently went back to their commands and the war proceeded.

A delegation waited upon him one day to get information as to how the war was proceeding. They were not satisfied with the way it was being conducted, and the spokesman said: "Mr. Lincoln, how many men have the Confederates now in the

field?" Lincoln replied, "One million two hundred thousand." "Why surely, Mr. Lincoln, there surely can not be so many as that!" "Yes," said Lincoln, "there are fully twelve hundred thousand men and no doubt about it. You see, all of our generals when they get whipped say the rebels outnumber them from 3 to 5 to 1, and I must believe them. We have 400,000 men in the field, and 3 times 4 makes 12. Don't you see it?" And that delegation went away.

Again, a temperance committee of reformers requested him to remove General Grant from the command of the Army, and when Lincoln demanded their reasons, they said, "He drinks too much whisky." Lincoln said, "Ah, by the way, gentlemen, can any of you tell me where General Grant procures his whisky, because if you find out I will send every general in the field a barrel of it." And that committee, too, went away.

There came a day, however—the right time, the psychological moment—when Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation, which was a deathblow to the war against the Union. Then came the second election of Lincoln. He became a candidate because he said, "Don't swap horses in crossing a stream."

The second inaugural was an unanswerable appeal to the States in insurrection to cease their war against the Union. I can only quote from that address these wonderful words from the heart of a man that knew no hatred or revenge:

Fondly do we hope, feverently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondsman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

When they brought to him a boy, a little fellow found sleeping exhausted at his post, and demanded that he should be shot for the good of the service Lincoln said:

Well, I do not believe shooting will do him any good. Give me that pen.

The war ended, a victory for Lincoln's common sense. The Nation was preserved, and the Constitution remained intact. Slavery was forever abolished, and we became again the United States of America. When the Union Army was celebrating, in the face of the southern troops that had surrendered, the great victory Lincoln was present, and after the band had played patriotic airs Lincoln called upon them to play "Dixie" and said that that tune applied as much now to the North as to the South. It should hereafter remain as music to the whole united country.

When certain northern enthusiasts who had never seen a battle called upon Lincoln at the close of the war and demanded that he capture Jefferson Davis and make him an example as a rebel Lincoln said:

